



From the Desk of Lieutenant Governor Matthew Denn

Reviving Delaware

Stimulus Update

August 20, 2009

Direct Payments Available to Businesses that Go Green

Last week, I announced that the United States Treasury had begun to accept applications for \$3 billion in stimulus payments designed to encourage the use of renewable energy by businesses and the creation of renewable energy facilities. This stimulus program will allow businesses to receive grants for the creation of these renewable energy projects rather than the future tax credits for which those projects were previously eligible.

My office, along with other state agencies, and various other organizations have tried through our various outreach efforts to keep the Delaware business community informed on an ongoing basis about stimulus opportunities, but this program is of such magnitude, and is so consistent with the state's focus on renewable energy as a driver of its economy, that I wanted to call special attention to it. I encourage Delaware businesses to review the Treasury's web site and seriously consider taking advantage of this program.

The purpose of the grant program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is to front-load the funding for renewable energy projects, in order to stimulate investment in renewable energy projects and create jobs.

Although one focus of the new program is large-scale renewable power generation facilities, businesses that simply make modifications to use solar, geothermal, fuel cell, or microturbine power in their workplaces may also be eligible.

Only properties used in a trade or business qualify for this stimulus grant program. And the funds are only available for projects where construction begins in 2009 or 2010. Full information about the program can be found at <http://www.treas.gov/recovery/docs/guidance.pdf>.

New Grant Approved for Retraining Delaware’s Auto Workers and Keeping Police on the Streets

In the end of July, the state got word that Delaware has received 2 important new grants. First, we received a \$3.8 million National Emergency Grant for retraining of workers laid off by the closure of Delaware’s two automobile assembly plants. Delaware is particularly deserving of this grant. Other states have certainly been hard hit by the automobile industry’s difficulty – but no other state has lost 100% of its auto industry like we have.

Also, 9 different municipalities will receive a combined \$5.1 million in federal COPS grants to fund 24 new police officers for the next three years. All of our law enforcement agencies across the state are feeling the pinch of tight resources combined with growing responsibilities, and this funding will help ease the strain. The COPS program, of course, was originally created and championed by our own Vice President Biden when he served in the Senate.

State Grant Requests Approved by Clearinghouse

In the last week in July, the state’s Clearinghouse Committee (a body composed of legislators and other state officials who must sign off on all applications for federal funds) gave approval to another round of federal stimulus grants that state agencies will be submitting to apply for some of the federal recovery funding. These grant applications, when they are approved by the federal government, will bring important new services and new jobs to Delaware. Some of the major grants are:

- Over \$16 million in additional funding for Delaware’s Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program, which helps families hardest hit by difficult economic times and/or family emergencies.
- \$200,000 to expand the state program that helps pay off student loans for new doctors who agree to work in neighborhoods and medical specialties which don’t have enough doctors to meet community needs.
- Three preliminary applications for increased railroad capacity in Delaware, including a study of the need for downstate rail and a third track from Wilmington to Newark. More rail and faster rail in this country is a part of our national effort to be less dependent on foreign oil for our energy needs, not to mention the many jobs construction of new rail capacity would bring to our state.

I’m particularly proud of a quarter of a million dollar request to strengthen Delaware’s non-profit community by providing them with resources that the nonprofits as a group can use. My office wrote the application for this grant. Many such organizations do wonderful work in serving Delawareans, but could use a little help with their administrative burdens. Most folks who go to work for nonprofit organizations want to help people and build stronger communities – not do paperwork.

All the best,

Matt Denn
Lieutenant Governor